

Message Text

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DEPARTMENT FOR S/NM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, KS

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS TRAINING FACILITIES IN KOREA

REF: STATE 284346

1. THIS MESSAGE IN RESPONSE TO PARAGRAPH 5 REFTEL.

2. A) TRAINING PROGRAMS EXIST IN REPUBLIC OF KOREA BUT THEY
ARE MODEST IN SCOPE.

B) NATIONAL HEALTH INSTITUTE (A DIVISION
OF MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS) CONDUCTS ONE WEEK
PROGRAM ONCE EACH YEAR. KOREAN NATIONAL POLICE (KNP)
PROVIDE ALL RECRUITS WITH ONE HOUR NARCOTICS LECTURE DURING
BASIC TRAINING. CUSTOMS SERVICE PROVIDES RECRUITS WITH
FOUR HOURS NARCOTICS
TRAINING DURING BASIC TRAINING.
ALL THESE AGENCIES HAVE NATIONWIDE AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY.

C) EXISTING LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING FACILITIES:

1. NATIONAL HEALTH INSTITUTE; 2. NATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY;

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3. NATIONAL CUSTOMS TRAINING SCHOOL.

D) INSTRUCTORS TRAINING AND CAPABILITIES-INSTRUCTORS IN NATIONAL HEALTH INSTITUTE PROGRAM ARE DRAWN FROM NARCOTICS SECTION OF MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE. THEY ARE COLLEGE GRADUATES WITH WORK EXPERIENCE IN FIELD AND HAVE ATTENDED TWO WEEKS DEA TRAINING (1974). KNP COURSE SHORT AND CAPABLE OF BEING DELIVERED BY EXPERIENCED POLICE INSTRUCTOR BUT RECENT (1976) KNP GRADUATE OF DEA SIX WEEK COURSE HAS BEEN EARMARKED FOR INSTRUCTOR ROLE. CUSTOMS COURSE TAUGHT BY EXPERIENCED CUSTOMS PERSONNEL. LEGAL ASPECTS OF NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT ARE PRESENTED IN TRAINING COURSES BY PERSONNEL FROM SEOUL PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE. CAPABILITIES OF INSTRUCTORS ACCEPTABLE.

E) SEE D) ABOVE.

F) BEST ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TRAINING - IMPACT OF LOCAL TRAINING NOT MEASURABLE AT MOMENT. HOWEVER IN RECENT YEARS SEIZURES OF ILLICIT MATERIALS AND ARRESTS HAVE INCREASED AND THIS MAY BE DUE IN PART TO LOCAL TRAINING EFFORTS.

G) HOST COUNTRY LIKELY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITY TO UPGRADE ITS OWN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM BY PARTICIPATING IN TRAINING SERVICES OUTLINED IN REFTEL.

H) WE BELIEVE KOREAN INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT TRAINING IN US WOULD PROBABLY BE MOST EFFECTIVE APPROACH IN UPGRADING LOCAL CAPABILITIES ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF SMALL NUMBER OF PERSONS LIKELY TO BE INVOLVED.

I) WE DO NOT BELIEVE KOREA WOULD MAKE AN ESPECIALLY SUITABLE SITE FOR REGIONAL TRAINING. KOREA REMAINS A LOW PRIORITY COUNTRY FROM A NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING OR ABUSE POINT OF VIEW AND CONSEQUENTLY TRAINEES WILL NOT ENCOUNTER TYPICAL NARCOTICS PROBLEMS OR ELABORATE NARCOTICS CONTROL MACHINERY HERE. KOREA IS ALSO RELATIVELY DISTANT FROM COUNTRIES WHICH ARE LIKELY TO SEND TRAINEES TO A REGIONAL CENTER.
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